scheme, strengthening of marketing and storage facilities, promotion of agricultural diversification towards income enhancing crops and activities suitable to small holdings, sustainable dry-land farming, subsidy and price support measures like announcement of Minimum Support Prices and organizing of purchase operations to prevent distress sales by the farmers.

A number of specific Schemes are being implemented for the benefit of farmers including small and marginal farmers. Prominent among these are National Horticulture Mission, Macro Management of Agricultural Scheme, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Technology Mission on Cotton, Technology Mission on Coconut. Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal, Seed Village Scheme, Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure. Under these Scheme financial assistance is provided to the farmers. Besides, efforts are also on to cover larger areas under irrigation to reduce dependence on rain.

Shortfall in agricultural production

2597. SHRI RAASID ALVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite upbeat projections, preliminary estimates shows that agriculture sector is already falling short of its crop production for July, 2005-June, 2006;

(b) if so, whether foodgrain target for that period is 215 million tonnes and kharif production 110 million tones but the first advance estimates puts it at 105.25 million tonnes;

(c) whether this will be marginally up from the last years but will be short of the target;

(d) if so, the details of the target set; and

(e) the steps taken to meet the foodgrain shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA) (a) and (b) For the country as a whole, the seasonal rainfall from 1st June to 30th September, 2005 was 99% of its Long Period Average (LPA). The normal rainfall implies a reasonable good kharif

production prospects for 2005-06. The rabi season is still going on and at this jucture it is too early to precisely estimate the likely rabi production.

The target for foodgrain production for the year 2005-06 was fixed at 215.00 million tonnes which included 109.92 million tonnes of kharif foodgrains production. Against this target the 1st advance estimates for the year 2005-06 brought out in September, 2005 put the estimated kharif foodgrain production at 105.25 million tonnes.

(c) The estimated kharif foodgrain production of 2005-06 is 1.87% more than the kharif foodgrain production of 2004-05 which was 103-32 million tonnes. The available reports indicate that during rabi season much larger areas has been sown under wheat, oilseeds and pulses, which is likely to result in higher production. If weather remains favourable, the foodgrains targets are likely to be achieved.

(d) The details of the target set for 2005-06 and the estimated kharif production as per the 1st advance estimates are show in the Statement (see below).

(e) No shortfall in the production of foodgrain is anticipated.

Statement

Details of target set for foodgrains during 2005-06 and the estimated production during kharif 2005-06

(Million Tonnes)

Crop	Season	2005-06	
		Targets	1st Advance Estimates*
1	2	3	4
Rice	Kharif	75.45	73.83
	Rabi	12.35	
	Total	87.80	
Wheat	Rabi	75.53	

*As on 19.09.2005

1	2	3	4
Jowar	Kharif	4.28	3.90
	Rabi	3.33	
	Total	7.61	
Bajra	Kharif	8.55	7.79
Maize	Kharif	12.54	12.17
	Rabi	2.85	
	Total	15.39	
Ragi	Kharif	2.79	2.15
Small Millets	Kharif	0.53	0.43
Barley	Rabi	1.65	
Coarse Cereals	Kharif	28.69	26.44
	Rabi	7.83	
	Total	36.52	
Cereals	Kharif	104.14	100.27
	Rabi	95.71	
	Total	199.85	
Tur	Kharif	2.66	2.29
Other Kharif Pulses	Kharif	3.12	2.69
Gram	Rabi	6.17	
Other Rabi Pulses	Rabi	3.20	
Total Pulses	Kharif	5.78	4.98
	Rabi	9.37	
	Total	15.15	
Total Foodgrains	Kharif	109.92	105.25
	Rabi	105.08	
	Total	215.00	